CLP EDUCATION CUTS DEFY COAG REPORT

Shadow Minister for Education, Natasha Fyles said today that a report to COAG is another nail in the coffin for the CLP Government’s justification for teacher cuts and support services cuts.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council’s report, *Education in Australia 2012: Five years of performance* shows Territory education results lag behind the rest of our nation despite gains in the early years.

“The COAG Report sadly shows a decline in the important middle years of school - years 7 and 9 which is exactly where the CLP Government education cuts are hitting hard,” Ms Fyles said.

"The COAG report shows a greater effort is needed to tackle disadvantage in the Territory and the CLP should stop the teacher and support services cuts now.

“To deliver more individual attention and better education outcomes the Territory needs more teachers and better support - not less.

“Cutting support services such as the GEMS program which supports school attendance will make it harder to get girls to school, keep them engaged in education and making healthy life decisions.

“Education Minister Peter Chandler is out of touch if he thinks cutting support positions, cutting teachers and cutting individual attention for students will improve educational outcomes.”

Ms Fyles again called on the CLP to stop education cuts being implemented now and allow the announced Indigenous Education Review and Middle Schools Review to inform investment in education without these disastrous cuts that will send Education backwards.

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